and commercial semis being auctioned/tendered/allotted by Bhilai Steel Plan every month to Nagpur;

(b) if so, any other demands made by the Association; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in view of the provision of funds to secondary steel producers out of steel development funds collected by Joint Plant Committee (JPC) and conversion of training institution of National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST) into full fledged technical institution?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Handicapped Quota**

1012 DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for handicapped persons in Group C and D posts have been considered in the Department Examination;

(b) if so, the number of candidates selected during the last three years till date Group-wise, Circle-wise;

(c) whether complaints have been received from the handicapped candidates for not providing reservation for any post;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Reservation for handicapped persons in Group 'C' and 'D' is considered at the time of recruitment on the basis of result of examination as envisaged in DOP & T O.M. No. 36035/17/85-Estt. (SCT) dated 1.4.1986.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**Air Service between New Delhi and Hong Kong**

1013 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India propose to introduce a new air service between New Delhi-Hong Kong;

(b) whether air services pact has been signed between India and China in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether similar agreements were made between both the countries in the past also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India is already operating five services a week between Delhi and Hong Kong.

(b) to (e) The air services operations between India and Hong Kong were earlier regulated by the India - UK Air Services Agreement. A separate Air Services Agreement has now been signed between India and Hong Kong on 10th October, 1996.

**Installation of Transponders and Interrogaters**

1014 SHRI DEBI PROSAD PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the major Indian airports where transponders and interrogaters have been installed;

(b) the airports where these are non-functional and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the shortcomings in ground control infrastructure had been pointed out to the Airport Authority of India by the President, Indian Commercial Pilots Association long back;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon so far;

(e) whether Government propose to review the working of the ground navigation instruments installed at Indian airports keeping in view the recent air disaster; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The 'Transponders' are provided in the aircraft. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken installation of ground based Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) 'Interrogators' at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports and the SSRs at Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports have been commissioned.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. AAI have installed the necessary SSR and other navigational aids.

(e) and (f) All the navigational systems are being regularly checked by the AAI to ensure adherence to the international performance standards.

*[Translation]*

**Promotion of Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir**

1015 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received by the

Union Government from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the development and promotion of tourism in the State during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals cleared/rejected and under consideration;

(c) the reasons for rejecting the proposals; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to revive tourism in the State and to restore to its lost glory as a tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State Governments on receipt of specific proposals. During the last three years the Department of Tourism has provided funds amounting to *Rs. 514.58 lakhs* for *32* projects. The details are at the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Department of Tourism has constituted a Task Force for the development of Tourism in the Himalayan Region including Jammu and Kashmir.

**STATEMENT**

*Project/Schemes Sanctioned During 1993-94*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Amount sanctioned | Amount released |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | *Jammu and Kashmir* | | |
| 1 | Four huts at Batot | 18.00 | 9.00 |
| 2 | Four huts at Dera Ki Gali | 14.00 | 7.00 |
| 3. | Tourist Bungalow at Bani | 28.08 | 14.00 |
| 4. | Tourist complex at Achimathang | 17.36 | 2.00 |
| 5 | Tourist bungalow at Durbug (Pongong Lake) | 22.06 | 5.00 |
| 6. | Tourist complex at Karsha | 17.11 | 8.50 |
| 7 | Tourist Bungalow at Tsomoriri Lake | 20.65 | 5.00 |
| 8 | Tourist Bungalow at Atholi (Paddar) | 19.29 | 9.50 |
| 9 | Tourist huts at Soti Gondow Bhaleasa | 6.45 | 3.00 |
| 10 | Tourist Bungalow at Leh | 19.73 | 15.00 |
| 11. | Tourist Bungalow at Charer-i-Sharief | 26.57 | 13.00 |
| 12 | Aquatic sports equipment at Ujj. Bairaj | 0.90 | 0.88 |
| 13 | Procurement of aquatic sports at Mansar Lake | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| 14. | Procurement of aquatic sports at Bagh-i-Bahu | 2.45 | 2.00 |
| 15. | Procurement of aquatic sports Salal Lake | 10.45 | 5.00 |
| | Total | 225.69 | 100.88 |

*Projects/Schemes Sanctioned for the Year 1994-95*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Amount sanctioned | Amount released |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Jammu and Kashmir* | | |
| 1. | Tourist complex at Sanasar | 28.08 | 25.00 |
| 2. | Tourist complex at Patni Top | 27.75 | 11.00 |
| 3 | Tented colony at Pangong Lake | 15.50 | 7.00 |
| 4. | Tourist complex at Rajouri | 24.02 | 12.00 |
| 5 | Tourist complex at Lama Yuru | 17.12 | 9.00 |
| 6. | Fairs and Festivals | 1.40 | 1.40 |
| 7. | Tented colony at Sarchu | 15.00 | 2.34 |
| 8 | Tents for Nusra Valley | 15.00 | 7.25 |
| 9. | Tents for Tsomrari Lake | 15.00 | 7.00 |
| 10 | Printing of publicity material | 2.70 | 1.40 |
| 11. | Tented colonies with acquatic sports by JKTDC | 15.50 | 2.00 |
| 12. | Tented colonies/accommodation at Nubra Valley | 15.50 | 7.25 |
| 13 | Acquatic sports by JKTDC at Tsomoriri Lake | 13.57 | 13.57 |
| 14. | Purchase of tented accommodation at Sirchu on Leh-Manali road | 9.84 | 2.34 |
| | Total | 215.98 | 108.55 |

*Projects/Schemes Sanctioned for the year 1995-96 to Jammu and Kashmir*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S.No. | Name of the Project | Amount sanctioned | Amount released |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | *Jammu and Kashmir* | | |
| 1 | Construction of Tourist accommodation at Katra Vaishno Devi | 28.00 | 10.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | The renovation of Gompas at Hemis | 20.00 | 09.20 |
| 3. | Tourist Complex at Nubra | 25.00 | 12.00 |
| | Total | 73.00 | 31.20 |

**Stoppage of Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express at Kopargaon Station**

1016 SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express 2479 UP and 2480 DN train does not stop at Kopargaon (Maharashtra) station;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide a stoppage of this train at Kopargaon for the followers of 'Sai Baba' to visit Shirdi and

(c) if so, the time by which the stoppage is likely to be provided at the Kopargaon station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Railway Reservation System**

1017 SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated September 12, 1996 captioned 'Railway Ke Aarakshan Kendron Ki Halat Bhayavah';

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to improve the condition of these Railway reservation centres, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) New software named CONCERT was introduced in Delhi Passenger Reservation System (PRS) in replacement of old software on 9.9.96. To enable the data to be converted to make it suitable to the new software, advance reservation work was closed on 8.9.96 as this activity could not be carried out while simultaneously carrying on the reservation work at the counters. The reservations for the current day's trains and those leaving from the train originating stations upto 1200 hrs. of 9.9.96 were handled manually and for this necessary arrangements had been made at various train originating stations.

Wide publicity about the closure of the reservation office of Delhi PRS on 8th September, 96 was given to the public well in advance through all leading newspapers as well as through Akashvani and Doordarshan. The new software started functioning from the morning of 9.9.96. There were teething problems on 9th and 10th September when some of the terminals intermittently malfunctioned. This affected the reservation work at various locations, causing inconvenience to passsengers and was the cause of the adverse publicity in the Nav Bharat Times of September 12, 1996.

Necessary steps have been taken to ensure that system functions smoothly and without interruption to passenger bookings. For this purpose a close watch is being maintained over the software round the clock and no serious problem has been reported after 19th September, 1996.

*[English]*

**Privatisation of Services Sectors in the Trains**

1018. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to privatise some of the services sectors in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facilities are satisfactory and have already been extended to several trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons for privatising services in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Various services on trains such as catering, bed rolls, leasing of accommodation for carriage of parcels in luggage compartment of passenger trains had been entrusted to private parties on a few trains. Based on experience gained, a decision has been taken to manage the bed rolls supply departmentally.

**Sanction of Chapter for Institute of Travel and Tourism Management**

1019 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had urged the Union Government to Sanction Chapter for the Institute of Travel and Tourism Management which will assist in making available trained manpower in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on 5th August, 95 Tourism Ministers Conference had laid emphasis on the development of tourism throughout the country;